

**Bucks County Conservation District
2022 Annual Report**

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*Cover photo: The winner of the 2022
Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts
Poster Contest (10th-12th grade range,) submitted by
Eric Chen of Newtown, PA*

Bucks County Conservation District 2022 Board of Directors

David Wolfinger, Chairman

Dwight L. Ely, Vice Chairman

John Frederick, Secretary

Jeffrey A. Vey, Treasurer

Robert J. Harvie, Jr., Commissioner Director

Scott Smith, Farmer Director

Scott left the Board in 2022; we thank him for his service!

Joel Roney, Farmer Director

Joel joined the Board in 2022

Kellie McGowan, Esq. Public Director


Associate Directors:

Robert Loughery, Nehemiah Development Company, Inc.

Dr. Broc Sandelin, Delaware Valley University

Peter Stampfl, Stampfl Associates

Evan Stone, Bucks County Planning Commission



The BCCD is a legal subdivision of state government and is administered by a Board of Directors composed of four farmer members, two public members, and one county commissioner member, all of whom serve without pay. The Directors work with all individuals, organizations, and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, and flood prevention in the broadest sense to secure their assistance and support in planning and carrying out District programs.

2022 Annual Report – Manager’s Message

2022 represented a career milestone for me, as I was first hired by the Bucks County Conservation District in 2001. This past year marked my 20th anniversary as an employee of the BCCD. I began my career with BCCD as their Watershed Specialist, and I still maintain that it is one of the best jobs a person can have. I was promoted to District Manager in 2007 and have served in this role for the last 15 years.

As a young environmental science student, I did not imagine being able to find a career that would completely match my personal goals. I am so grateful to have a place at this organization that has provided me with everything I always knew I wanted.

In 2022, the District not only added to our staff, our Board of Directors made changes to improve the salary, benefits, and balance for our employees. They rededicated themselves to the goal of retaining excellent team members by providing for a better quality of life and assuring them that the BCCD is an organization that everyone can be proud to make their career. Now we are on a path to securing our employees’ ability to enjoy their lives while they work to ensure future generations can experience the beauty and resources of our county.

I hope that you enjoy this summary of the programs that our team has put their efforts into for the last year.

Gretchen Schatschneider
District Manager

Gretchen poses with BCCD Board members Bob Harvie and Dave Wolfinger after receiving a Conservation Week citation celebrating BCCD’s efforts in environmental stewardship



2022 BCCD Staff

Gretchen Schatschneider, District Manager

Richard Krasselt, Environmental Protection Specialist II

René Moyer, Chapter 102/NPDES Administrator

Susan Seykot, Chapter 102/NPDES Administrator

Naomi Fisher, Asst. Chapter 102/NPDES Administrator

Marilyn Laurelli, Receptionist

Morgan Schuster, DGLVR Program Administrator

Ryan Herstine, Agricultural Conservation Technician

Destini Benson, Agricultural Conservation Technician

Destini left BCCD in 2022 to pursue other opportunities. We thank her for her time with BCCD and wish her the best!

Jason Maurer, Erosion and Sediment Control Technician and Education Specialist

Tori Jones Long, Erosion and Sediment Control Technician

Chris Cook, Erosion and Sediment Control Technician

Amanda Sandor, Erosion and Sediment Control Technician

Karen Ogden, Watershed Specialist

Mary Robinson, BCCD Intern

*René, Karen, Marilyn, Rich,
Tori, and Amanda all
bundled up for a very windy
day at the 2022 Envirothon
competition*



2022 Financial Statement

Revenue:

Fees for Services	\$ 1,000,748
Grants	1,353,983
Contributions	6,622
Interest	10,138
Miscellaneous	648
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 2,372,139</u>

Expenses:

Building Maintenance	\$ 27,023
Capital Purchases	135,962
Computer	24,312
Dues and Subscriptions	5,808
Education Projects	5,224
Grants and Programs	1,426,150
Insurance	38,273
Interest Expense - New Bldg	4,301
Meetings and Seminars	3,017
Miscellaneous	3,398
Office Supplies	10,851
Payroll and Benefits	704,724
Payroll Taxes	49,889
Postage	10,027
Professional Fees	15,901
Publicity and Promotion	1,211
Taxes - Other	-
Travel	2,381
Utilities	24,356
Vehicles	19,517
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,512,325</u>

Excess of Revenues over Expenses \$ (140,186)

Unaudited

A note about the table above: the "loss" shown is due to grant expenses awaiting reimbursement.

Chapter 102/NPDES Program

Below is a summary table of BCCD's activities administering the Chapter 102/NPDES Program in 2022. It was a very busy year for BCCD, with almost 1500 plans reviewed and almost 1000 general inspections conducted.

As COVID-related restrictions started to be lifted, we were able to increase the amount of outreach participation from the previous year. We're very glad to be able to get out and interact with the local communities we work so hard to protect.

<u>Program activity</u>	<u>Activity tallies</u>
Outreach events	29
Event participants	71
Technical assistance contacts	6,250
News releases	8
Technical plan reviews	1,476
Total project acres submitted	13,266
Total disturbed acres submitted	2,157
General NPDES permits issued	83
Notices of Termination acknowledged	46
Complaints received and inspected	47
New project sites inspected	424
Total inspections conducted	916

Chapter 102—Erosion and Sediment Control

In 2022, BCCD technicians continued enforcing PA Code Title 25, Chapter 102 regulations relating to erosion and sediment pollution control and administering Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection programs in that field.

As noted on the previous page, BCCD staff are constantly busy reviewing new permit applications and conducting site inspections to ensure projects are in compliance and not negatively impacting local resources. These efforts protect local water resources for both our current enjoyment and that of future generations.

Below are a couple of selected photographs from 2022, showing some of the issues BCCD technicians face and handle in the field.



At lower left, this stormwater inlet protection must be maintained so that sediment or other pollutants aren't discharged into local waterways. BCCD made sure this site was cleaned up and maintained.



It's difficult to distinguish because of how damaged it is, but the crushed, black "tube" at the very bottom of the photo at right used to be a functional compost filter sock. These are installed to keep sediment on site and prevent it from washing into local waterways. However, they don't work well when they're destroyed by construction traffic. BCCD made sure these controls were reestablished.

BCCD Watershed Programs

Lake Luxembourg Conservation Pool

2022 was a big year for the District as the long-awaited Lake Luxembourg Conservation Pool Regional Wetland project got underway. Spring and summer surveys found state-imperiled red-belly cooter eggs had overwintered in adjacent fields and hatchlings needed a lift to make it safely to the water. The flood gates were opened in mid-July and the excavators began removing sediment from the conservation pool in early August. The sediment, accumulated over decades from erosion associated with upstream land use changes, was placed in the adjacent, Bucks County owned agricultural field. By November, excavation was complete, the field was graded and seeded and put to rest until spring. The margins of the pool, restored to depths up to 4 feet, will be planted in summer of 2023 and the beneficial ecosystem service of water filtration will begin.



Above: A hatchling red-belly cooter helped to the water (photo credit: Karen Ogden)



Above: An adult female red-belly cooter (photo credit: Karen Ogden)



At left, the conservation pool as a mudflat in late August. At right, final day of excavation: pool and field in view (photo credits: Southeastern Pennsylvania Unmanned Aircraft Systems)

Watershed Programs continued

Paddle with a Purpose

BCCD held our 13th Annual Paddle with a Purpose volunteer event July 20th through 22nd at Lake Towhee. The goal of this event is to remove invasive, non-native aquatic plant water chestnut (*Trapa natans*.) Two rounds of herbicidal treatment were distributed prior to the event to weaken the plants, and immediately following was a third treatment to hit the water chestnut hard and fast during the growing season. This year, the Bucks County Conservation District was accompanied by 40 dedicated volunteers, who hand-pulled an estimated 147 construction grade trash bags full of the unwanted plant with a combined total of 250 hours of work. This year was especially labor intensive as the daily temperatures averaged 92 degrees Fahrenheit. BCCD would like to thank our partners in the Parks and Recreation Department for their contributions as well as the Delaware Canal State Park for lending kayaks and manpower all three days.



Above: BCCD intern Mary Robinson shows off an invasive water chestnut, removed from Lake Towhee



CD3 Station

In July, BCCD was able to partner with Pennsylvania Lake Management Society to borrow a Clean, Dry, Drain, and Dispose mobile unit (CD3 Station,) featured in use at the Paddle with a Purpose event in the photo above at right. This system is a free use, pollution-free dry boat cleaning system that allows the public to clean their watercraft from any contaminants and limits the spread of invasive species within the county. BCCD started the CD3 off at Lake Nockamixon State Park, then moved to Lake Luxembourg, Neshaminy State Park, and Lake Galena. In all four locations, the mobile trailer was accompanied with instructional signs and directions to educate the public on how to properly clean and care for their watercraft, and why limiting invasive spread is so important.

Pennsylvania suffers from invasive species such as water chestnut, zebra mussels, and mud slugs. Even native duck weed can become a major nuisance when inappropriately transferred from one waterbody to another on a watercraft. Overall, the CD3 helped raise awareness of these issues and the Conservation District saw great interest in the device from members of the public.

Harmful Algal Bloom Response Team



Above and below are examples of potential HABs. This location at Lake Towhee was sampled by BCCD in July 2022.



The Bucks County Conservation District has continued in its second year of monitoring harmful algal blooms (HABs). With Pennsylvania receiving increasing reports of HABs, the Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) established a HABs protocol in June 2021 for monitoring and responding to HABs outbreaks. In the 2022 Summer season, BCCD intern Mary Robinson, along with Watershed Specialist Karen Ogden, and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Technician Chris Cook, partnered with the DEP and the County Health Department to create their own systematic monitoring protocol using the DEP response system.

BCCD staff created a monitoring schedule to sample and observe four lakes spanning upper and lower Bucks County twice a month. During these monitoring sessions, a composite transect water sample was collected and sent to the DEP laboratory in Harrisburg for analysis. Along with the water sample, pictures were taken to document the observational features, and a water probing unit was used to collect quantitative data regarding pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and specific conductivity. Over the course of the summer, HABs were found in three out of the four lakes: Lake Galena, Lake Towhee, and Lake Luxembourg. While all three lakes are not permitted for swimming, they are secondary contact lakes where the public can boat and fish. Each location was posted with advisory signs and warnings to educate the public on the water conditions. BCCD has also fielded calls from concerned citizens and provided guidance.

Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads

Program 2021-2022

Cleaner Streams, Better Roads

Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program provides grant funding to local road-owning entities for road and environmental improvements on unpaved and low-volume paved roads.

This year, Bucks County received:

\$100,000.00 for Dirt & Gravel roads

\$192,831.00 for Low Volume roads

Dirt & Gravel Road Projects: School Road, Springfield Township, pictured below. An existing contract from 2021 was executed this year on School Road in Springfield Township. This road has direct drainage into Haycock Creek and the new driving surface aggregate (DSA) top layer has much improved the water quality of potential runoff into the waterway. New pipes were also added to clear and direct water from the road surface to the roadside ditches.



DGLVR Program continued

Low Volume Road Projects: Two new contracts were signed for low volume projects in 2022. These were Salem Road in Springfield Township and East Rock Road in East Rockhill Township.

Salem Road is projected to be finished in early 2023. It involves replacing some existing crosspipes that are falling apart and no longer functioning. Each new pipe will get a new headwall and endwall installed and new ditch shaping up and down slope to better usher the stormwater where it should go.

The photo at right shows an existing inlet of a pipe that will be replaced on Salem Road. The pipe is half filled with sediment and rusting apart.



East Rock Road was a small project with a big impact. It involved replacing two driveway pipes that are no longer functioning and reshaping the ditches leading to these pipes. This road is directly north of Lake Nockamixon and sediment was traveling down each driveway onto the roadway and then towards the stream and lake. Once the pipes are installed, only clean water will leave the driveways.

The photo at left shows the wash out from a driveway on East Rock Road. Installation of a new pipe and improvements to ditch work will be performed in this area.

Bucks County Conservation District is always looking for more applicants and eligible projects within the County to work towards the DGLVR Program's goal of better roads and cleaner streams. To be eligible for DGLVR Program funding, a representative from the local entity applying must attend an environmentally sensitive management training (ESM) once every five years. For more information on the DGLVR Program, possible sites to be funded in the future, or the required ESM training, please contact Bucks County Conservation District's Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road Program Administrator Morgan Schuster at mschuster@bucksccd.org.

Agricultural Conservation

The Bucks County Conservation District's agricultural conservation program had a busy year! Lots of manure management plans, conservation plans, designs, and construction checks for addressing various manure and erosion resource concerns on agricultural lands were completed over the past year. These projects have assisted our farmers in improving sustainability on their operations, while also helping to protect our county's natural resources.

Act 38 Nutrient Management

BCCD administers Pennsylvania's Act 38 Nutrient Management program. Farms with an annualized animal density of 2,000 lbs per acre or more are classified as Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), and are required to have a current nutrient management plan. Bucks County has 12 CAOs, all of which are equine farms.

Outreach/Education

BCCD continued its agricultural conservation outreach efforts in 2022, with many meetings now in person. BCCD Agricultural Conservation Technicians (ACT,) along with Montgomery County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS,) presented at Penn State Extension's annual pesticide update meetings (sample presentation slide at right.) We discussed regulations relating to manure management, agricultural erosion & sedimentation, and what defines a farm being considered a CAO or CAFO. We also discussed common challenges that farms typically face regarding conservation and tools to combat those challenges. Finally, we provided various cost-assistance programs that are available to help get conservation practices implemented on the ground, which was especially exciting.

BCCD also attended a field day hosted by a local Pioneer Seeds representative to provide literature and spoke to farmers one-on-one about conservation.

BCCD's ACTs have also attended several other trainings and workshops over the last year to better serve the farmers of Bucks County.



Agricultural Conservation continued

In 2022, BCCD continued its efforts in conservation planning and implementation by implementing a grant from DEP's Growing Greener program for BMP implementation on two CAO equine farms. We expect to have this grant fully implemented by the end of 2023!

BCCD also applied for a Section 319 grant, administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency, to implement best management practices relating to manure management on a dairy farm. With a rapidly decreasing number of dairy farms left in Bucks County, it is important to the BCCD to support & assist our remaining dairy farmers through our conservation efforts.

Over the next handful of years, BCCD is allocated to invest \$2.3 million in agricultural conservation in the county through the brand-new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). This program will provide funding and resources necessary for the agricultural community, so we as a District can further our mission of protecting the county's natural resources. This program is expected to make it much more affordable for farmers to be able to implement conservation measures on their farms.

In addition, BCCD continued its partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist farmers with technical and financial assistance to plan, design, and implement BMPs on their farms. Currently, BCCD is assisting about 20 different farms who are voluntarily seeking assistance on planning and implementing BMPs on their farm. BMPs may be structural (a few examples include grass waterways, terraces, animal heavy use area protection, and manure storages) or non-structural (no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and nutrient management).

Another program the BCCD has assisted farmers with is the PA REAP tax credit program, which offers farmers tax credits to get agricultural plans updated, best management practices implemented, and conservation equipment (such as no-till planters & precision nutrient application equipment) purchased. BCCD has also assisted farmers with the Agri-Link program, which provides farmers with low interest loans to implement practices contained in one of their agricultural plans.

On the following page, you can see photos of some impactful projects BCCD's agricultural conservation team participated in during 2022.

Agricultural Conservation continued



Above: Photo of a manure storage facility completed in the Fall of 2022 for an equine farm. This was built as part of the Growing Greener grant mentioned previously.



Above: Photo of a stormwater and sediment control basin outletting into a grass waterway. This was installed to address gully erosion in the crop field caused by upslope stormwater from a housing development.



Above and at right: Photos of an equine heavy use area and upslope diversion. The diversion is used to divert upslope clean water around the heavy use area. The heavy use area is used to protect pasture during times when pastures are unfit for grazing.



Farmer of the Year Award

Each year, the BCCD and Bucks County Commissioners are proud to present the Fred S. Groshens Conservation Farmer of the Year Award to “a farmer who has furthered conservation in Bucks County by addressing resource concerns on their farm as they pertain to the health and maintenance of soil, water, air, animals, plants or humans.” In 2022, the award was given to McArdle’s Holiday Farm in Mechanicsville, PA, pictured below.



McArdle’s Holiday Farm, owned and operated by Mike & Karen McArdle and their four children, is a second-generation farm purchased in the early 1960s. They began by raising and selling Christmas Trees to the local community and have since diversified their farm by raising beef cattle, sheep, and pigs. Prior to receiving a contract from NRCS to install several best management practices (BMPs), the operation had obtained a conservation plan and nutrient management plan. These plans identify resource concerns that negatively impact soil and water quality and propose specific BMPs to address these concerns. Some of the BMPs in their contract include constructing a roofed manure storage and heavy use area for the beef cattle, installing a curb on their existing concrete cattle heavy use area to direct the nutrient-laden runoff to a grass vegetated treatment area, and building two water control basins which outlet into grass waterways to treat accelerated soil erosion caused by runoff from an upslope housing development.

Farmer of the Year Award continued

In addition to the structural practices that the McArdles have committed to, there are also several management related practices outlined in the conservation and nutrient management plan. These include planting Christmas trees on contour which helps reduce erosion. A new grazing plan has been developed for the beef cattle and sheep, including planting and harvesting forage to meet management objectives, establishing forage species utilizing reduced tillage, and following the 4R's (right source, right rate, right time, and right place) when land-applying manure and other fertilizers as outlined in their nutrient management plan.

Previous conservation efforts made by the McArdles include constructing a roofed heavy use area and manure storage structure for sheep last year. This work was completed without financial assistance. Mike's father, Ed, was also conservation minded. Back in the 1990s, with assistance from NRCS, he installed approximately 1.5 acres of grass waterways, 1600 feet of waterway diversions, and a few thousand feet of subsurface drainage tile. These historical practices have been maintained very well through the years and are still functioning.

All of these combined practices will have a positive impact on soil and water quality by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients leaving the farm, allowing the farm to become more productive and sustainable as a result. This will be achieved through both structural practices (manure storage, heavy use area, grass waterways) and management practices (pasture management, manure/nutrient management, and soil health management). The BCCD acknowledges the McArdle family's stewardship of the land by awarding them the Bucks County Conservation Farmer of Year award.



Pictured above: the McArdle Family

Spotted Lantern Fly Committee

As a District located within the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) quarantine zone established by the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA), BCCD takes pride in supporting the efforts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission (SCC) and PDA to mitigate the negative impacts of the invasive SLF across the state.

2022 is the fourth consecutive year that the BCCD has taken part in this pilot grant program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and PDA, administered by the SCC in counties within the SLF quarantine zone. With PDA's task delegation for CCDs shifting from coordinating contractual treatment of tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*, the SLF preferred host plant) on private and public land to a focus on general outreach and education, staff at the BCCD have dedicated time towards addressing county level SLF inquiries as well as distributing education material to our social media audience and office visitors.



Photo above depicts multiple juvenile Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*) competing with native Red Milkweed Beetle (*Tetraopes tetraphthalmus*) on native milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*.) Photo taken 06/29/2022 in Warminster Township

Chris Cook continued BCCD's committee efforts by obtaining 100 circle traps in the fall of 2021. In the spring and early summer of 2022, Chris performed seven separate circle trap handout events at the BCCD office, in addition to meeting with several community members at various locations. BCCD staff members Amanda Sandor, Karen Ogden, and Naomi Fisher, also dedicated their time to support the handout event preparations.

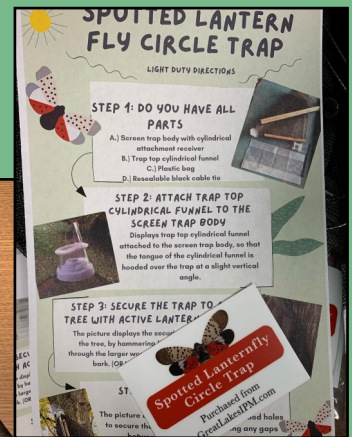


Photo credits: Chris Cook

Photos above depict a Circle trap bundle provided to the public along with BCCD's user-friendly instructions.

With BCCD's distribution efforts focused on priority control areas as defined by the PDA, including travel corridors, 16 of the 58 community members that received traps confirmed that they were located near either an airport, railway, or main road. These individuals received a combine total of 33 traps.

Looking into the future of this committee, as PDA's Spotted Lanternfly pilot grant program task delegation for CCDs may continue to shrink, BCCD staff will continue to perform education and outreach. As grant funding is made available, additional circle traps may be obtained for subsidized circle trap handouts at the BCCD office in 2023.



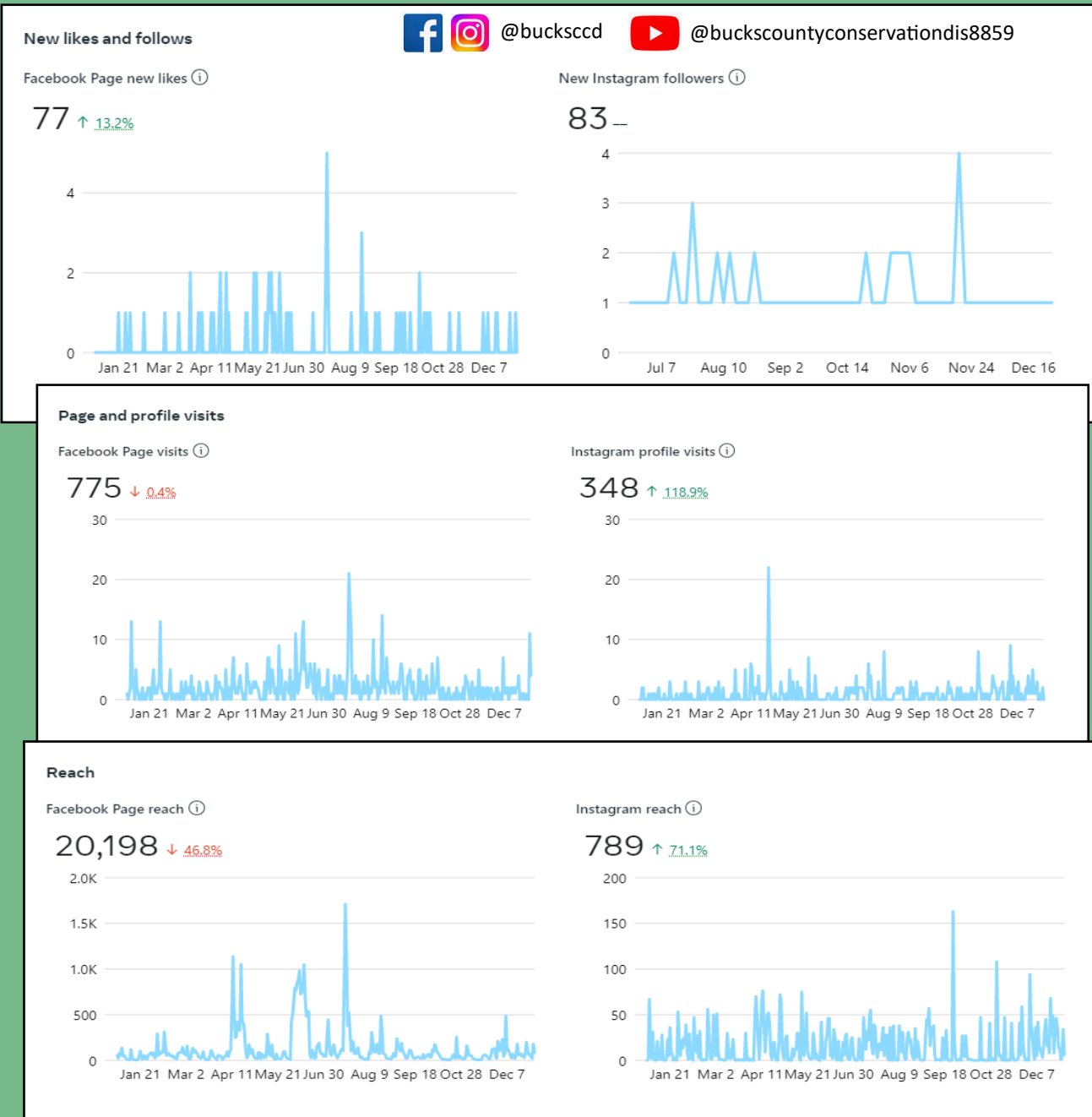
Photo credit: Chris Cook

Photo above depicts adult Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*) feeding on a non-native host plant (*Ailanthus altissima*), observed on 08/18/2022 in Lower Southampton Township

Social Media Highlights

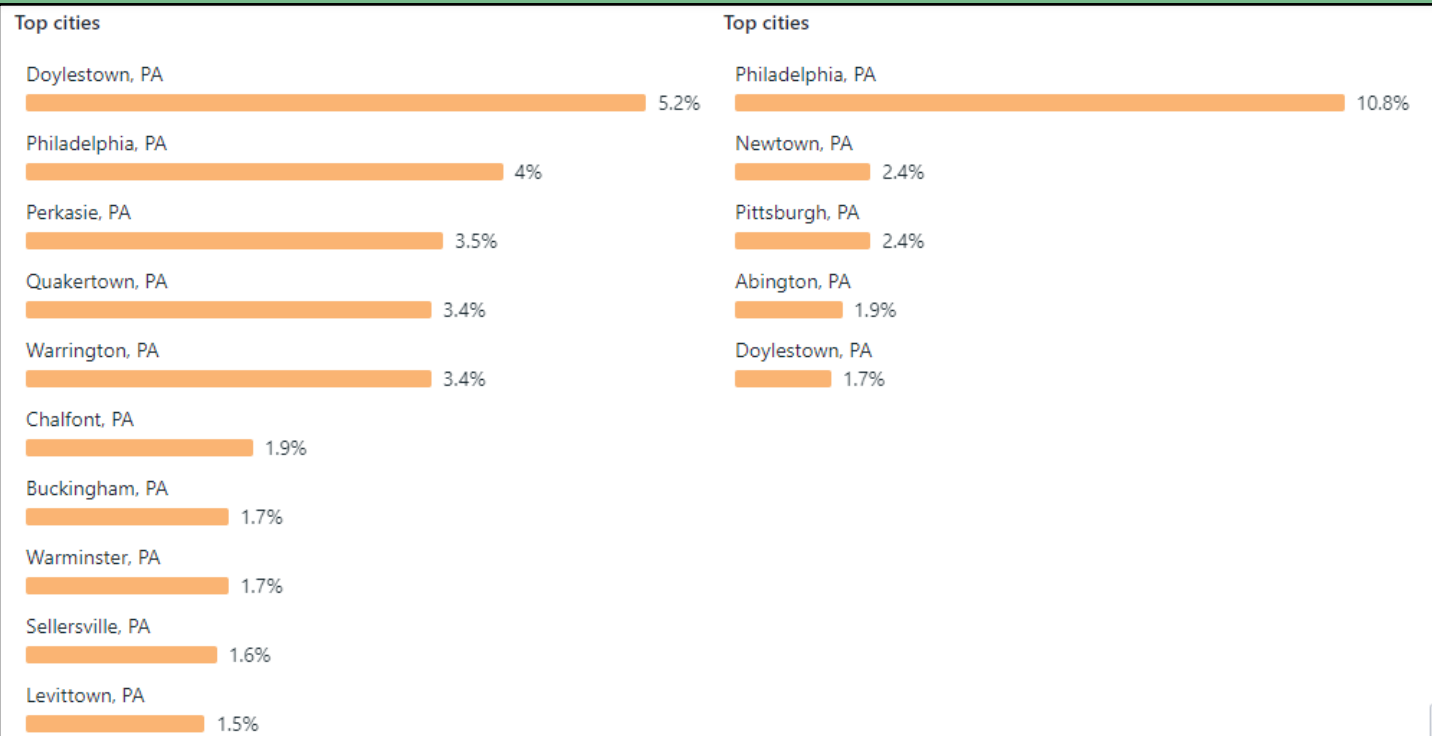
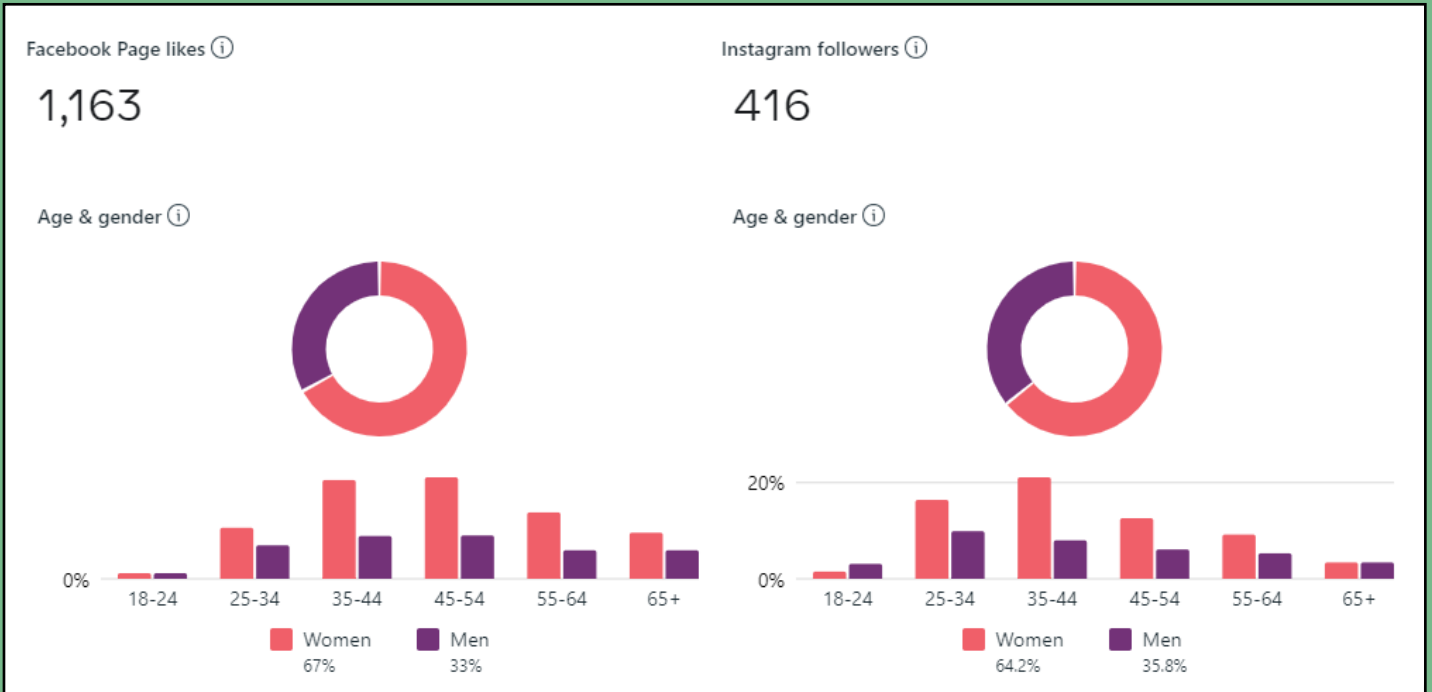
In an effort to provide the Bucks County community with the latest information surrounding it and its partner organizations' updates and events, the BCCD has had an active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Posted content included information on local pollution concerns and human health implications, volunteer opportunities, and educational material on natural resource conservation. On average, BCCD shares around 6 or more posts a week on one or more of the mentioned platforms.

The graphs below highlight the percent average increase or decrease in reach (the amount of people that see a post), like/follow (the amount of engagement the post/page receives,) and profile visits (the amount of individuals that navigate through the page) for the BCCD Facebook and Instagram pages for 2022. Notably, the amount of reach on the BCCD's Instagram increased, suggesting that as the year progressed, greater amounts of individuals have been exposed to single pieces of content posted. The amount of reach on the BCCD's Facebook decreased, suggesting that as the year progressed lesser amounts of individuals have been exposed to single pieces of content posted. These trends can likely be attributed to a reduced amount of paid advertisement used on Facebook and an increase in follows on Instagram.



Social Media Highlights continued

The graphs below display the BCCD’s Instagram and Facebook audiences. Notably, there are a greater amount of women following both pages than men, and there is a younger audience following the BCCD Instagram page compared to the Facebook page. While Chris Cook has worked to improve the top cities reached by actively engaging with more regionally specific event pages, blogs, news platforms, and nature centers, several large municipalities within the county are not included as top cities reached. Planning ahead for 2023, considerations will be made for ways staff can more readily share BCCD’s social media pages.



Educational Outreach and Events

Earth Day—Nockamixon Elementary School and Perkasio Borough

BCCD staff celebrated Earth Day by talking watersheds at Nockamixon Elementary School’s Earth Day program and also with community visitors to the Perkasio Borough Earth Day celebration.



Tori Jones Long, Karen Ogden, and Master Watershed Steward Rick Anderson at the Nockamixon Elementary School Earth Day event



Amanda Sandor and Karen Ogden man the booth at the Perkasio Borough Earth Day celebration

Workshops—“Got Mud?” and Stormwater Management for Landscape Professionals

The District welcomed spring with two stormwater workshops. The first, cooperatively presented by neighboring districts in Chester and Montgomery Counties, addressed maintenance of stormwater infrastructure to an audience of landscape professionals. A second “Got Mud?” workshop targeted homeowners tackling backyard water woes. Topics such as raingardens, rain barrels, and rewilding with natives were covered.

At right, Amanda and Chris Cook explain the purpose and benefits of rain barrels during the “Got Mud?” workshop



Educational Outreach and Events continued

Keystone Ten Million Tree Partnership: Tree-Planting and Distribution

This year, the District received and distributed over 3,000 trees to organizations, municipalities, and individual landowners throughout the County. While Bucks County is not a priority region for this donor-supported Chesapeake Bay Program initiative, county residents were still eager and grateful for the native trees and shrubs to plant in local parks, backyards, next to streams, schoolyards, and more.



Above: HOA of Villages at Flowers Mill, Langhorne enhanced riparian habitat / Students plant trees at Holicong Park

Below: Master Watershed Stewards planted an HOA property in Washington Crossing / Streamside plantings on a private property in Perkasie



Water Quality Monitoring

The District continued monitoring tributaries of the Poquessing Creek in Bensalem and sending samples to the Academy of Natural Sciences for analysis. Both Lakes Galena and Luxembourg were sampled to monitor their trophic state index – a quality indicator affected by nutrient pollution. As mentioned in previous pages, BCCD also supported the PA Department of Environmental Protection’s Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring program by sampling Lakes Towhee, Galena, Luxembourg, and Silver Lake.

2022 Envirothon Competition

The 2021 Envirothon was held as an online challenge event due to concerns about COVID-19. Fortunately, in 2022, we were able to again hold the event on campus at Delaware Valley University. We were thrilled to be back in person with all the participating schools, students, and volunteers!



The special Current Issue for the 2022 Envirothon was “Waste to Resources,” focusing on responsible and sustainable management of waste products. Congratulations to the winning team from Neshaminy High School, who went on to place a very impressive 14th in the statewide competition!



As always, thanks to PA Envirothon for all of their hard work in putting together the Envirothon event. Bucks County is glad to be able to participate and thanks all our volunteers, agency partners, and partners at Delaware Valley University for providing a fantastic venue for an event focusing on environmental science topics.

Destini, Karen, Gretchen, Amanda, Chris, and Jason pose for a final photo after the 2022 Envirothon competition

BCCD Director Memorial Scholarship for Continuing Education

The Board of Directors for BCCD has established an annual scholarship award for Bucks County residents pursuing higher education in the field of environmental science. Featured in previous pages, Mary Robinson was the Scholarship award winner in 2022.

Mary joined BCCD as the summer intern from May 2022 to August 2022. Mary has been a Bucks County resident her whole life and graduated from Bucks County Community College with an associate degree in Environmental Science in 2020. Since then, she has continued her education at Penn State University pursuing a degree in Environmental Resource Management and minoring in Watershed & Water Resources. While on campus, she works with the USDA Pasture Labs performing analytics on water samples, sediments, and organic materials.

During her time at BCCD, Mary coordinated the annual Paddle with A Purpose volunteer event, the Father's Day Fishing Derby, conducted stream sampling at Poquessing Creek, coordinated a dry boat cleaning system (CD3,) at local lakes, monitored lake quality at Lake Galena and Lake Luxembourg with the Department of Environmental Protection, and was the lead field tech in collecting Bucks County water samples to submit to the statewide Harmful Algal Bloom program. She also worked closely with Watershed Specialist Karen Ogden in the Lake Luxembourg lowering project.

Mary wants to extend a huge thanks to everyone in the BCCD office for welcoming her so kindly and sharing their knowledge about the world of conservation. We likewise extend our appreciation to Mary for all her hard work!



Above, Mary shows a sample of invasive water chestnut to volunteers at the Paddle with A Purpose event. At right, Mary and Amanda conduct stream monitoring work in the Poquessing Creek



BCCD Winter Charity Drive

Each year during the winter holiday season, BCCD staff coordinate a charitable donation to spread kindness within our community. In 2022, staff chose to benefit some of the four-legged members of Bucks County by collecting supplies for two local animal shelters - Last Chance Ranch and Harley's Haven Dog Rescue. Pictured here are some of the donations received along with two recipients of the donations who have since been adopted!



Thanks to all who donated to the charity drive! Part of the collection is pictured at left

Pictured at right: Amanda having her best day at work ever. The puppies, Penne and Tortellini, found happy homes thanks to staff at Harley's Haven Dog Rescue



Bucks County Conservation District Mission:



**TO PROVIDE FOR THE WISE USE, MANAGEMENT, AND
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES**

Bucks County Conservation District

1456 Ferry Road, Suite 704

Doylestown, PA 18901-5550

(215) 345-7577

www.bucksccd.org

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@bucksccd)
and Youtube (@buckscountyconservationdis8859)**